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(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Continuation Application of:  
Victor Wiener, Calvin Jonathan Stein and Carlos  
Escobar

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Prior Group Art Unit: 2748

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Prior Examiner: A. Hoosain

For: METHOD OF ESTABLISHING A  
COMMUNICATIONS CALL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL 835 822 542 US, in an envelope addressed to: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 21, 2001

Signature:

(Thomas J. Engleman)

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this U.S. patent application as follows:

***In the Specification***

Please amend the specification by inserting at page 1, a subheading entitled --Reference to Related Applications-- and add the following text: --This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/773,652, filed December 24, 1996-- A clean copy of revised page 1 of the specification is attached hereto, together with a marked-up version showing the revisions.

***In the Claims***

Please cancel claims 1-73 and add the following new claims 74-123.

74. (New) A method of establishing a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;  
accessing called address data for said B party from said public network in response to selecting said B party;  
sending said called address data for said B party and calling address data for an A party to a connection module of said public network; and  
establishing a call between said A and B parties over said public network using said connection module and said called and calling address data.

75. (New) A method of establishing a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;  
searching for called address data for said B party using said interactive device and a search module of said public network and a database of said public network including called address data;  
sending said called address data for said B party and calling address data for an A party to a connection module of said public network; and  
establishing a call between said A and B parties over said public network using said connection module and said called and calling address data.

76. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said interactive device is a computer and/or telephony device including a visual display.

77. (New) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said interactive device is associated with said A party.

78. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said interactive device is a communications terminal for said call.

79. (New) A method of originating a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network; and  
sending, in response to selection of said B party, selected party data corresponding to said B party to said public network;  
whereby a connection module of said public network accesses called address data for said B party on the basis of said selected party data to establish a call between an A party and said B party.

80. (New) A method of originating a communications call, including:

selecting a B party using an interactive device connected to a public network;  
sending, in response to selection of said B party, selected party data corresponding to said B party to said public network;  
obtaining said called address data from said public network in response to a search for said B party using said selected party data; and  
sending said called address data for said B party to a connection module of said public network for establishing a call between an A party and said B party.

81. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6 or 7, wherein said public network includes a messaging network for connecting a plurality of said interactive device and at least one public telecommunications network for connecting said A and B parties.

82. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said messaging network provides said interactive device with a plurality of B party data.

83. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said messaging network accesses and forwards said called address data to said telecommunications network.

84. (New) An interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, including:

a display controller for causing display of at least one B party;  
a selector for enabling a B party to be selected on said display; and

a link which on being activated sends selected party data corresponding to said B party to a public network, whereby said public network accesses called address data of said B party on the basis of said selected party data and forwards said called address data to connection module of said public network to establish a call with said B party.

85. (New) An interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, including:

a search generator for generating a search for a B party using said public network;

a data receiver for receiving results of said search;

a display controller for causing display of said results including at least one B party;

a selector for enabling a B party to be selected on said display; and

a link which on being activated sends selected party data corresponding to said B party to a public network, whereby said public network instructs a connection module of said public network to establish a call with said B party.

86. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 12, wherein said results includes called address data for said B party data, and said selected party data includes said called address data.

87. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 11, 12 or 13, wherein said interface is sent to said interactive device by said public network on request from said interactive device.

88. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 14, wherein said public network includes a messaging network, for connecting a plurality of said interactive device, and at least one public telecommunications network for establishing said call.

89. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 15, wherein said interface includes a hypertext page and/or an applet for establishing said link.

90. (New) An interface stored on an interactive device connected to a public network, including:  
code for generating a display on said device of B party data;  
code allowing selection of a B party from said B party data; and  
code for transmitting to said public network selected party data corresponding to the selected B party and A party data;  
whereby said public network accesses called address data for said B party on the basis of said selected party data and establishes a call between an A party and a B party using said A party data and said called address data.

91. (New) An interface stored on an interactive device connected to a public network, including:  
code for obtaining B party data from said public network;  
code for generating a display on said device of B party data;  
code allowing selection of a B party from said B party data; and  
code for transmitting to said public network selected party data corresponding to the selected B party and A party data;  
whereby said public network accesses called address data for said B party on the basis of said selected party data and establishes a call between an A party and a B party using said A party data and said called address data.

92. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 18, wherein said B party data includes called address data and said selected party data includes called address data for the selected B party.

93. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein said public network includes a TCP/IP messaging network and at least one public switched telephone network for establishing said call.

94.(New) A system for use in establishing a communications call, including:  
    called address data for parties connected to at least one public network;  
    an access module for transmitting said called address data for display on an interactive device, and for receiving selected party data from said interactive device; and  
    a controller for receiving said selected party data, including called address data for the selected party, and calling address data corresponding to an A party and generating, in response thereto, network control signals to cause said at least one public network to establish a call between said A party and said B party over said network.

95. (New) A system for use in establishing a communications call, including:  
    a directory database including called address data for parties connected to at least one public network;  
    an access module for receiving on said at least one public network selected party data corresponding to a B party and accessing called address data on the basis of said selected party data from said directory database; and  
    a network controller for receiving said called address data and calling address data corresponding to an A party and generating, in response thereto, network control signals to cause said at least one public network to establish a call between said A party and said B party over said network.

96. (New) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said network includes at least one public telecommunications network, such as a PSTN, for receiving said control signals and establishing said call, and a messaging network, such as the Internet, for passing data between the A party, the access module and the network controller.

97. (New) A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the access module includes directory data from said directory database for display by said A party.

98. (New) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, including a search module accessible by said A

party over said network for searching said directory database.

99. (New) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said call is established with a terminal of the A party which selects said selected B party.

100. (New) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein said call is established with a terminal of the A party which is separate from the terminal selecting said B party.

101. (New) A system as claimed in claim 21 or 22, wherein the address data includes a party terminal number and security information.

102. (New) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one of the calling address data and the called address data includes account information.

103. (New) A directory server for use in establishing a communications call on at least one public network, including:

a directory database module for accessing directory data, including communications address data, of parties connected to at least one public network;

a call connection module for transmission to an interactive device of a user and for accessing, for said interactive device, directory data using said directory database module;

a call completion module for receiving selected party data for a B party of said call from said interactive device and transmitting a connect message to a communication module of said public network for establishing said call, said connect message including communications address data for said B party obtained using said directory database module.

104. (New) A server for use in establishing a communications call on a public network, including:

a call connection module for transmission to an interactive device of a user and for transmitting a connection message from said interactive device;

a call completion module for receiving said connection message and forwarding a connect message to a communication module of a public network for establishing a call between A and B

parties;

wherein said connection message includes data identifying at least said B party and said connect message includes communications address data for said A and B parties.

105. (New) A server as claimed in claim 31, including a directory database module for accessing directory data, including communications address data, of parties connected to at least said public network, wherein the communications address data of said connect message for at least said B party is obtained using said directory database module.

106. (New) A server as claimed in claim 30 or 31, comprising a TCP/IP server connected to a TCP/IP network, such as the Internet, and wherein the public network is a telecommunications network, such as the PSTN.

107. (New) A method of establishing a call between parties, including:

receiving a first message at a directory service of a public network in response to selection of a displayed element on an interactive device connected to the public network, said first message including identification data;

generating a second message in response to said first message, said second message including communication addresses determined on the basis of said identification data; and

sending said second message to make calls to parties using said communication addresses to establish a call between the parties.

108.(New) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the identification data is name data.

109. (New) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the directory service is adapted to access a database of public communications addresses stored against respective identification data.

110. (New) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein selection of the displayed element invokes generation of code on the interactive device to generate and send the first message.

111. (New) An interface of an interactive device connected to a public network, including:  
a selectable displayed element which may be selected by a user of the device; and  
code for generating and sending a first message in response to selection of said displayed element, to a directory service of the public network, said first message including identification data,  
wherein said directory service determines public communications addresses on the basis of said identification data, and sends a second message to make calls to parties using said communication addresses to establish a call between the parties.

112. (New) An interface as claimed in claim 38, wherein the identification data represents a name.

113. (New) A method of establishing a call, including:  
receiving a call request from a client device over an IP link that connects the client device to the Internet, said call request including data identifying parties for said call;  
generating a connection message, in response to said call request, including data identifying terminals for said parties; and  
establishing a call between said terminals in response to said connection message.

114. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include two telephones.

115. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include a telephone and said client device having a voice over IP application.

116. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said terminals include said client device and a further client device both having a voice over IP application.

117. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said call is established over a public network, such as the PSTN.

118. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said receiving and generating steps are executed by a server, such as a web server.

119. (New) A method as claimed in claim 45, wherein said connection message is sent to network equipment that executes said establishing step.

120. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said call request is a HTTP request.

121. (New) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said client device is a computer device, such as a computer, handheld device or telephony device with a visual display.

122. (New) A network system having components for executing the steps of a method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6, 7, 34 or 40.

123. (New) Computer software having code for executing the steps of a method as claimed in claim 1, 2, 6, 7, 34 or 40.

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is submitted to present a new set of claims for consideration. No new matter has been presented. Support for the new claims can be found, inter alias, at page 2, line 1 through page 4, line 17, pages 5-8 and 15-17, as well as in the original claims. The specification has also been amended to provide references to related applications. Attached hereto is a clean copy of amended page 1 of the specification and a marked-up version showing the changes made by this amendment.

The newly presented claims in this application are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. In the event that the claims are not deemed allowable, applicant's representative requests an opportunity to interview with the Examiner. The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any issues that arise during examination.

Dated: November 21, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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**CLEAN COPY OF PAGE ONE OF SPECIFICATION WITH CHANGES**

-1-

**METHOD OF ESTABLISHING A  
COMMUNICATIONS CALL**

**REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/773,652, filed December 24, 1996.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a method of establishing a communications call and a system for use in establishing a call.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Currently to establish a public telecommunications call requires an originating party to know the telephone number of the destination and to take steps to either manually dial the number or to cause the number to be accessed from a database maintained by the originating party and dialed. If the originating party does not know the number of the destination then service personnel of a carrier can be contacted to obtain the number and if desired connect the originating party and destination party, hereinafter referred to as the A and B party, respectively.

The B party's number can also be determined by consulting a public directory which may be in print or electronic form. A call with the B party can then be established by dialing the number obtained.

As information concerning the B party's number is known by a telecommunications carrier a method and system is desired to enable that information to be used automatically, on request, to establish a call between the A party and the B party without the caller having to dial the number.

**MARKED UP VERSION OF PAGE ONE OF SPECIFICATION WITH CHANGES**

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The B party's number can also be determined by consulting a public directory which may be in print or electronic form. A call with the B party can then be established by dialing the number obtained.

As information concerning the B party's number is known by a telecommunications carrier a method and system is desired to enable that information to be used automatically, on request, to establish a call between the A party and the B party without the caller having to dial the number.